

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 231143 TOSEC 140017

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 6613 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AND USIA DTD

28 SEP

QUOTE:

UNCLAS JIDDA 6613

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WRAP-UP ON SAUDI PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S. AMBASSADOR

REF: JIDDA 6382 6444 6490

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PUBLICATION IN THE U.S. OF REPORTS THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR WAS TO BE REPLACED AS AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA AND ALSO "REMOVED" FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE, THE SAUDI PRESS, OVER A WEEK AND A HALF PERIOD, PUBLISHED SEVEN COMMENTARIES ON THE SUBJECT. A SUMMARY OF PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED ITEMS IS PROVIDED IN THIS MESSAGE ALONG WPTH WRAP-UP COMMENT ON THE MAIN CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE ARTICLES. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING PIECES WERE COVERED IN EARLIER: DR. BAKR OMAR AL-AMARI'S SEPTEMBER TWELVE ARTICLE IN UKAZ DAILY TITLED UNCLASSIFIED

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QUOTE WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE, DR. KISSINGER?

UNQUOTE (SEE JIDDA 6382); AHMAD MAHMOUD'S REGULAR COLUMN QUOTE NEWS OF THE HOUR UNQUOTE IN SEPTEMBER NINETEEN EL-MADINA DAILY (SEE JIDDA 6444); AND MANAGING EDITOR MOHAMMAD SALAHUDIIN'S FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL QUOTE A SALUTE TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN UNQUOTE IN SEPTEMBER TWENTY-ONE AL-MADINA (SEE JIDDA 6498).

2. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE ARTICLES, AZIZ DIA IN SEPTEMBER SEVENTEEN ISSUE OF WEEKLY IQRA'A MAGAZINE UNDER TITLE QUOTE THE SAGA OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR UNQUOTE RECAPITULATED CONTENTS OF SEPTEMBER ONE INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF NEWSWEEK AND CONCLUDED THAT THE ARABS MUST GO BEYOND RHETORIC AND ME-CALLING WHEN COMPLAINING ABOUT U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY AND QUOTE FIND A WAY OR REACHING OTHERS LIKE MR. AKINS, OF WHOM THERE ARE MANY IF ONLY WE KNEW HOW TO DIG THEM UP UNQUOTE. A SUMMARY OF THIS ARTICLE WAS ALSO PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, ARAB NEWS.

3. IN HIS SECOND EDITORIAL ON THE SUBJECT TITLED QUOTE SOME ASPECTS OF AKINS' REMOVAL UNQUOTE, MOHAMMED SALAHUDIIN IN SEPTEMBER TWENTY-THREE AL-MADINA SAW THE AM- -94'S REMOVAL AS QUOTE A CLEAR ZIONIST MESSAGE...THAT (THEY) WILL NEVER TOLERATE ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL WHO CHALLENGES, OR ALLOWS ANYONE TO DILUTE, ZIONIST CONTROL (OVER U.S. POLICY) UNQUOTE.

BELIEVING THAT THE ZIONISTS ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ENOUGH U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO QUOTE DECISIVELY AND FINALLY UNQUOTE TIP THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THEIR FAVOR, SALAHUDIIN RECOMMENDS THAT QUOTE OUR BATTLE WITH THE ZIONIST ENEMY (IN THE U.S.)...OUGHT TO BE GIVEN ABSOLUTE PRIORITY IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION UNQUOTE.

4. IN SAME DAY'S AL-MADINA, OMAR AFIFI IN ARTICLE TITLED QUOTE A MAN WORTHY OF HONORING UNQUOTE CLAIMS UNCLASSIFIED

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QUOTE THE REAL FINGERS (BEHIND AMBASSADOR'S REPORTED REMOVAL WERE) THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES (WHO)....VIEWED HIS STATEMENTS OPPOSING ARMED ATTACK ON ARAB OIL INSTALLATIONS AS ESPECIALLY WEAKENING THEIR POSITION UNQUOTE. AFIFI CALLED THE AMBASSADOR QUOTE A TRUE AMERICAN WHO WORKS FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF HIS OWN COUNTRY THROUGH STRENGTHENING ITS TIES WITH THIS AREA'S STATES RATHER THAN

PROVOKPNG THEM AND INCITING THEIR ENMITY AND  
HATRED QUOTE.

COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL ARABIC AND TRANSLATIONS  
OF ALL THE ARTICLES ARE BEING SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT  
AND USIA FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

COMMENT

THESE SERIES OF ARTICLES, RATHER EXTRAORDINARY  
IN NUMBER OVER WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AN INTERNAL  
U.S. AFFAIR, INDICATE THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT  
NOT ONLY CONSIDERS ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. TO  
BE IMPORTANT BUT THAT THE ARTICLES WERE OFFICIALLY  
INSPIRED IN AN EFFORT TO USE THE OCCASION TO COMMENT  
ON A NUMBER OF CONCERNS OVER THE CURRENT STATE OF  
THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

THE REPORTED PENDING REMOVAL OF AN AMBASSADOR WHO  
IS CREDITED WITH HAVING HONESTLY REPORTED THE VIEW  
OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, COUPLED WITH OTHER NEWS  
REPORTS OF LONG LISTS OF U.S. WEAPONRY REQUESTED BY  
ISRAEL, HAS RESURRECTED IN THE PRESS THE THEME THAT  
SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT IMPORTANT TO THE U.S., IN SPITE  
OF US INSISTANCE TO THE CONTRARY, SINCE SAUDI  
OPINIONS (AS REPORTED BY THE AMBASSADOR) APPEAR  
TO BE IGNORED BY THE U.S. AND THAT, BECAUSE OF THIS,  
THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS LOST FACT IN THE ARAB  
WORLD AS AN ARAB SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S., PARTICULARLY  
SINCE ISRAEL APPEARS TO HAVE GAINED THE MOST FROM  
THE SINAI ACCORDS.

ALTHOUGH THE REPORTED REMOVAL OF THE AMBASSADOR  
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HAS REINFORCED A LONG-STANDING BELIEF IN THE POWER  
OF ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN THE U.S., THE PRESS HAS ALSO  
REFLECTED THE VIEW THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME  
INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS (UNNAMED) IN THE U.S. WHO  
HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY "CORRUPTED" BY THE  
"INFERNAL ZPONIST MACHINE" AND THAT SERIOUS ATTEMPTS  
TO UTILIZE THIS GROUP'S INFLUENCE MUST BE UNDERTAKEN  
QUICKLY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE (OR "OUR NATION WILL  
CONTINUE TO BLEED AND BLEED AND BLEED").

THE ARTICLES' REFERENCES TO SUCH APPARENTLY  
UNIQUE AMERICAN CHARACTERISTICS AND PRINCIPLES  
AS "FREEDOM", HONESTY", FRANKNESS", SINCERITY",  
AND INDEPENDENCE OF MIND" INDICATE AN UNDERLYING  
ATTRACTION TO THE U.S. WHICH PERSISTS DESPITE

SUSPICION, HURT PRIDE, AND DISTRUST.

THE ORIGINAL U.S. PRESS REPORTS HAVE THUS RESULTED  
IN THE SURFACING HERE OF OLD SAUDI (AND ARAB) FEELINGS  
OF BEING IGNORED AND UNAPPRECIATED BY THE USG AS WELL  
AS SPARKING DIATRIVES AGAINST "ZIONIST CONTROL OF THE  
US." IT HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A PUBLIC AIRING OF

WHAT AMERICAN ATTRIBUTES AND METHODS OF DOING BUSINESS ARE  
MOST ADMIRER BY SAUDIS AND A REALIZATION THAT  
SOMETHING MORE TANGIBLE THAN EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS IS  
NEEDED IF THE ARAB WORLD IS TO MAKE ANY IMPACT UPON  
US PUBLIC OPINION.  
SABBAGH UNQUOTE  
INGERSOLL

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